

Travelling to the Beach?

Keep these safety tips in mind

The South Carolina Highway Patrol wants to ensure that you and your family have a safe trip as you enjoy your vacation on the Grand Strand this summer. We want to give you the most up-to-date traffic information and tips to help you get there and back safely.

Planning Your Trip:

Grand Strand:

Expect the heaviest traffic congestion to be on Highway 501 between Conway and Myrtle Beach in Horry County. Saturday is typically the busiest day of the week; SCHP starts seeing an increase in traffic in March and it will remain congested through Labor Day.

How to Get Traffic Information:

- Consult SCHP Real Time Traffic to find out about active collisions in the area you're travelling: www.schp.org. Real Time Traffic Map;
- Check SCDOT's 511 to get roadway information: <http://www.511sc.org/sc511/login/auth>

Consider An Alternative Route:

- If you are going to the Northern end of the Grand Strand (N. Myrtle Beach, Cherry Grove Little River), the Highway Patrol advises that SC 22 can be used to bypass the congested U.S. 501 route – the most heavily used artery into the beach. SC Highway 22 intersects with Highway 501 just past Aynor;
- If you are traveling from Southern End of the Grand Strand (SC 544 at Surfside Beach), take SC Highway 31, which runs parallel to the coast all the way to North Carolina Line.

General Safety Tips for Navigating Beach Traffic:

Motorists are often in a hurry to get into or leave from vacation destinations, leading to collisions and traffic tie-ups. The Highway Patrol offers these tips to help you move through traffic safely:

- Be aware that traffic will become congested especially around hotel check-in and check-out times;
- You can expect heavy, often bumper-to-bumper traffic on U.S. 501 and other arteries leading into the beach areas; patience is key;
- The Highway Patrol sees many minor traffic collisions, aggravating these already heavily travelled arteries: common reasons are:
 - Motorists unfamiliar with their routes; plan your route before and don't depend on GPS devices exclusively;
 - Don't tailgate;

- Hang up and drive! Refrain from texting and driving;
 - Watch your speed;
 - Be aware of motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians in this area;
 - Always wear your safety belt and ensure all passengers are buckled up;
 - Impaired driving: Don't drink and drive and report suspected impaired drivers or those driving in reckless manner by calling *HP.
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- Remember, South Carolina law says you can move your vehicle out of traffic if you have a crash with no injuries until an officer can arrive at the scene; this facilitates the flow of traffic;
 - Plan to see more law enforcement in and around beach areas. Our presence is to ensure your safety.